

The Active Voice



Special thanks to October's Business X-Change host Anderson O'Brien LLC!

Subscribe to our new video series 'Monday Mornings with Mike' on YouTube!



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A Time for Reflection

by Michael Witte, President + CEO, Portage County Business Council

I know that typically reflection in the business world is done on an annual basis, which is based on an operating calendar. It will be end of year or end of a fiscal cycle or other specified time. I tend to reflect based on my completion of another year here at the Portage County Business Council. I celebrated my second year on October, 18th – my how time flies.

At the same time the Business Council has celebrated it's 93rd year in business. It is not the same organization that started out "way back when" either. There have been at least four different name changes, countless personnel changes along with locations, which apparently have been six or seven.

I believe any reflection, short or lengthy, is important because you need to realize how you got to where you are and take the responsibilities for the wins and losses that got you to this point. I believe during reflection we tend to be harder on ourselves than need be.

I also believe all of us at times reflect on the past. Am I doing the best job for my company or organization? Am I taking care of family, friends loved ones? So many pressures and demands on our most valuable asset – time.

However, with reflection comes hope, which springs eternal.

Here at the Business Council we have grown so much in the last year. We have added two new staff, continued developing our programs, events and marketing to help all of your businesses succeed, plus have added a multitude of new Investors – THANK YOU!!!

After reflection comes that new, clean slate. A clearer direction. The anticipation of what is to come and it is right around the corner. We tend to gain a great sense of excitement. Sometimes

as Investors in our organization you may not know everything going on in Portage County and you have questions about this development or what is going on here and there. Let me assure you that we are working tirelessly to make Portage County a better place to Live, Work and Thrive.

You will MOST DEFINITELY want to stay tuned for next month's edition!!

The excitement is building!

Contact US!

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What is Business X-Change?

A presentation which allows business owners and their employees the opportunity to discuss pertinent topics, learn from local industry leaders and, most importantly, learn from each other. Business X-Change meets monthly from 7:30 - 8:30 a.m.

Business X-Change

Wednesday, November 8, 2023 7:30 am - 8:30 am

CLICK HERE to Register

- This program will be offered in person at PCBC.
- No cost to attend.
- · Coffee and danish provided.

Topic: "The ABC's of Protecting Your Family & Your Future"

About the Program: Insurance is all about risk. The purpose of insurance policies are to protect and minimize risk for you, your family, and your coworkers. With Secure Heritage we strive to put you at ease and have confidence that your family and loved ones will be protected thus making the insurance work for you.

Key Points included:

- Learn what different types of benefits are available
- Knowing and understanding exactly what your coverage will cover
- Where and how to get the needed benefits for your employees, family and individual benefits



Phillip Hollis Secure Heritage Insurance Agency



Special THANK YOU to Secure Heritage Insurance Agency for their sponsorship of this program.

About our Presenter & Secure Heritage Insurance: Secure Heritage Insurance Agency is a veteran owned business located in downtown Stevens Point. Phillip Hollis is the CEO/Broker and has been in the business for over 23 years. Phillip is active in his community as a veteran and belongs to the Stevens Point Noon Lions Club, along with being the immediate past district governor. This past year, he was top agent with three of his Medicare companies. By being licensed in other states, Phillip, his office staff, and agents are able to follow their clients as they grow and move on to new chapters in their lives, such as retirement. Secure Heritage works not just with Medicare clients, but with families and businesses to help with all their health needs. A new initiative of Secure Heritage is developing The Benefit Doctor of Central Wisconsin. This initiative opens the door to cost savings and tailored group policies that employers are proud to offer their employees while potentially offering better benefits at lower costs than ever before.



Tuesday Nov. 14, 5 - 7 pm

RSVP by Monday, Nov. 13, 2023







Hosted by NRG Media 2301 Plover Road, Plover, WI

Enjoy this fun networking event with delicious complimentary food, refreshments including beer, wine, soda & water, door prize giveaways and tours of the radio station.

A 50/50 raffle will also be played.

The NRG Media radio stations will present one representative from each business attending the opportunity to record a FREE 15-second Holiday Greeting for their customers! All four radio stations under the NRG Media umbrella will then air the greetings in rotation from 12/4/23 to 12/31/23. Various scripts will be available for selection.

WHAT IS BUSINESS AFTER HOURS? A social event designed for and hosted by Business Council members to give business professionals an opportunity to network, share ideas and have their facility seen by other members. The member host(s) furnishes refreshments and hors d'oeuvres for the evening. A different Business Council member hosts Business After Hours every month. Members are welcome to co-host the event with another Business Council member. Members should call to book the month they are interested in hosting as early as possible. Sponsorship opportunities are available.

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER ONLINE

For questions contact Karen Myers: 715-344-1940

karenm@portagecountybiz.com

UPCOMING BUSINESS AFTER HOURS DATES

ALL EVENTS ARE THE 3RD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH

December 12 - Blenker Construction January 16 - UWSP Conference & Event Services February 20 - Mid-State Technical College



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2023 11:15AM to 1:00PM

Holiday Inn Hotel & Convention Center 1001 Amber Ave, Stevens Point



Special thanks to our Media Sponsor: Midwest Communications Radio Group



CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO AND REGISTRATION

\$32 for PCBC Members \$37 for Prospective Members Women in Business is open to the public

We are excited to announce that Paula Houlihan, Award-Winning Presenter, Executive Coach and Retreat Leader, will be our keynote speaker presenting "Stop Wasting Time Managing Time". The key to success is not about how well you manage your time. It's about how well you manage your choices.

So, what's the secret to sustainable success? You may be surprised to learn it has nothing to do with how well you manage your time. It's about how well you manage your choices. In this engaging presentation, you'll discover Paula's Choice Management™ System, and one powerful, yet simple, question that, when asked, allows more time for what you love. Don't miss this Women in Business!

Event will include a delicious lunch, door prizes giveaways, swag bag full of goodies, and a 50/50 raffle. Don't miss the fun!

For questions contact Karen Myers: 715-344-1940 karenm@portagecountybiz.com



Paula HoulihanAward-Winning Presenter, Executive Coach
and Retreat Leader

 ${\it Special thanks for our Centerpiece Sponsor - Festival Foods}$



Special thanks to our Swag Bag Sponsor – Summit Credit Union



Ambassadors Give Back

We love to see our members and all Portage County businesses thrive and grow!



Help us welcome and congratulate the new owners of The Wooden Chair - Adam & Tracie Schweder. Members of our Ambassadors Club, PCBC staff, and dignitaries from the City of Stevens Point and Village of Plover helped them celebrate with an official ribbon cutting on October 3rd. The Wooden Chair is located at 1059 Main Street in downtown Stevens Point.



The Stevens Point Brewery is excited to announce their expansion on a new Hospitality Center that includes a gift shop and tap room, all housed in a historic 1936 building. On October 10th PCBC staff helped them celebrate with a groundbreaking. The Hospitality Center is anticipated to open in the spring. Congratulations!



Business leaders, Ambassador Club members, PCBC staff, Mayor Wiza, Representative Shankland, and Governor Evers came together on October 10th to support the groundbreaking of a new health clinic for Family Health La Clinica. The clinic will replace the Rice Medical building located at 2501 Main Street, Stevens Point and will offer dental, medical, women care and more. Congratulations!



Help us congratulate OnPoint Performance- Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation on their grand opening located at 3217 John Joanis Drive in Stevens Point. On October 13th our Ambassadors and PCBC staff were there to celebrate with a ribbon cutting.



Congratulations to Scooter's Coffee opening their newest location at 5707 US 10E, Stevens Point. Our Ambassadors, PCBC staff, Village of Plover and community members helped celebrate on October 20th with a ribbon cutting and were treated to some delicious coffee.



On October 20th members of our Ambassadors Club, PCBC staff and the Village of Plover attended the grand opening celebration for Elite Realty Brokered by eXp Realty at 29A Park Ridge Drive, (Park Ridge) Stevens Point. A ribbon cutting took place to welcome and congratulate them on their new office.

Meet our Ambassadors

Trina Barnett

Knight Barry Title Services, LLC

Where do you work?
I work for Knight Barry title in Closing & Business Development.

How long have you been an Ambassador? About 6 months.



What do you enjoy the most about being an Ambassador?

Being able to represent Knight Barry Title and the PCBC in a way that makes people feel they are part of a strong community and that we are all working together to make Central Wisconsin a great place to call home.

What is your most memorable moment from a ribbon cutting or PCBC event? Seeing the World's Largest Potato Masher get placed at Food + Farm Exploration Center was pretty awesome.

What is one interesting fact about you that most people do not know? I met my husband in Concert Choir at UW - LaCrosse. We sang together after we got married in a Community Choir when we lived in Minnesota as well.

What is your favorite activity to do in Portage County?
Going to KASH park with the kiddos, and the Green Circle for runs and biking.



Thursday, January 25, 2024

5:30-8:30PM Holiday Inn Hotel & Convention Center

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

\$75 per person

Winners of the Decree of Excellence Award, Ambassador of the Year Award, Small Business of the Year and the President's Award will all be recognized during the Portage County Business Council's Annual Dinner and Silent Auction on Thursday, January 25th.

Held at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Convention Center, 1001 Amber Avenue, Stevens Point, the evening extravaganza promises to be exciting with a social hour with complimentary hors d'oeuvres and cash bar.

Those in attendance will also have the opportunity to bid on an endless list of Silent Auction items. The Business Council extends an invitation to all Business Council members and their guests to attend the Annual Dinner. Reservations are due by Wednesday, January 17, 2024. Cost is \$75/person. Reserved seating for tables of 8.

Presenting Sponsor

\$1,300 - Only 2 Available

Benefits for Presenting Sponsor:

- Recognition as Co-Title Sponsor of event
- Logo and Presenting Sponsor recognition in invitations mailed to over 1,800 member contacts.
- Logo and Presenting Sponsor recognition in all event marketing including event program, digital magazine, press releases, and PCBC web site.
- Logo and Presenting Sponsor recognition during event award video presentation.
- Recognition as Presenting Sponsor on all emails to over 1,800 member contacts.
- Verbal recognition at event reception and dinner.
- Four (4) complimentary dinner tickets to event with premier reserved seating.

Award Sponsor \$950

Benefits for Award Sponsor:

- Sponsor of all 4 Award recipients
- Logo and Award Sponsor recognition in event marketing including event program, digital magazine, and PCBC web site.
- Logo and Award Sponsor recognition during event award video presentation.
- Recognition as Award Sponsor on all emails to over 1,800 member contacts.
- Verbal recognition at dinner.
- Four (4) complimentary dinner tickets to event with reserved seating.







Reception Sponsor \$675

Benefits for Reception Sponsor:

- Recognition in event program, digital magazine, and PCBC web site.
- Logo and Reception Sponsor recognition during event award video presentation.
- Recognition as Reception Sponsor on all emails to over 1,800 member contacts.
- Verbal recognition at dinner.
- Two (2) complimentary dinner tickets to event.
- Four (4) complimentary beverage tickets.

Silent Auction Sponsor \$675

Benefits for Silent Auction Sponsor:

- Recognition in event program, digital magazine, and PCBC web site.
- Logo and Silent Auction Sponsor recognition during event award video presentation.
- Recognition as Silent Auction Sponsor on all emails to over 1,800 member contacts.
- Verbal recognition at dinner.
- Three (3) complimentary dinner tickets to event.

Silent Auction Donor

Silent Auction Opportunity:

- Recognition in Silent Auction program and newsletter.
- Logo and Silent Auction Donor recognition during Reception.
- Recognized with a creative display during the Reception promoting both your business and the merchandise and/or service.

Sponsorships are limited and handled on a first come, first served basis. Please contact Karen Myers with your commitment by Monday, November 27, 2023 at 715-344-1940 or karenm@portagecountybiz.com.

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Thank you for your support.

Annual Dinner

Promote Your Products and Services at Annual Dinner Silent Auction

You have a unique opportunity to promote your business at the 30th Annual Silent Auction fundraiser event. The Business Council is currently seeking unique products and services to be auctioned at the Annual Dinner and Silent Auction on Thursday, January 25, 2024. Proceeds from the event benefit member programs and new Business Council initiatives.

As a Silent Auction donor, the Business Council promotes both your business and the merchandise and/or service in all printed promotional material.

Your business and donated item will also be promoted during the Annual Dinner to over 375 business people. Each donation will be recognized with a display at the Silent Auction, highlighting your business name.

Contribution ideas could be a specialty product and/or a service your business offers. Ideas might include a performance tickets, floral delivery, consulting services, golf lessons, artwork, jewelry, clothing or various themed gift baskets. Need more ideas? How about a weekend get-away package, home/office cleaning, Packer, Badger or Brewer tickets, a photography session or dining out certificates.

Be creative...Don't miss this chance to promote your business to the business community.

For more information, or to register a Silent Auction contribution contact Karen Myers at the Business Council office at 715-344-1940 or karenm@portagecountybiz.com by Friday, January 5th.



The Ambassadors are getting in the Christmas spirit!

The Ambassadors will be once again coordinating Letters from Santa. A small committee with be assisting Santa Claus with sending personalized letters to individuals. If you would like a special person(s) in your life to receive a letter from Santa, along with a small trinket, please send their name(s) and \$6.00 per letter to:

Letters from Santa c/o Portage County Business Council 5501 Vern Holmes Drive Stevens Point, WI 54482

Checks can be made payable to PCBC. They are taking orders now, with letters being sent the week before Christmas. Deadline for ordering is Friday, December 1st.

All proceeds will benefit the children at CAP Services' Family Crisis Center and our furry friends at the Humane Society of Portage County during the holiday season.

For questions please contact Karen Myers at 715-344-1940 or karenm@portagecountybiz.com.



Leadership Portage County

Recap written by LPC Participant, Jocelyn Donahue Renfert

Leadership Portage County's theme for October was Government, Public Service, and Justice. The day began with a round table discussion with local leaders: State Senator Patrick Testin, Portage County Executive John Pavelski, Plover Village Administrator Steve Kunst, and the Town of Lanark Chair Mike Pagel. These local officials shared the challenges they faced as leaders and encouraged people to be more involved in local government.

The day continued with eye-opening tours of the Portage County Sheriff's office and jail given by Sergeant Jason Meidl and Captain Ronnie Leach. Participants had the opportunity to what living-quarters were like in the jail. They also got to see where dispatch and other communications are routed for the whole county. The group even got to meet the exuberant K-9, Indy, and her handler Deputy Sadlemyer.

Following the jail tour, Dean Ben Nusz and Executive Director of Workforce Development Craig Bernstein of Mid-State Technical College continued their intriguing series of instruction on leadership. October's focus was on charismatic leadership.

The day concluded with a tour of the courthouse delivered by Family Court Commissioner Sheila Kessler, and Judge Trish Baker. Topics included the history of the courthouse and modern-day needs. The group was also able to witness a sentencing hearing as a concrete example of how our justice system works.

Jocelyn







Teen Leadership Day - Government

October 4 Teen Leadership Day-Government, Public Service and Justice Day

Recap written by Anna Auer, Pacelli Teen Leadership Development Participant

The focus for teen leadership on Wednesday, October 4th, was government and public service. We met at the ADRC center and started off our day with a Mid-State Technical School lesson with Ben Nusz and Craig Bernstein. We focused on different leadership traits and personalities. We learned about different personality tests you can take to determine what kind of leader you are and how you work with others. The biggest take away that I got from this lesson is The Big Five. The Big Five is a list of different traits that leaders should possess, but it can be flexible as well. The traits include openness, conscientiousness, extroversion, agreeableness, and neuroticism. We did an activity to see what kind of leader we are, most of us ended up being a Team Leader. To finish off the class portion, we read some scenarios and determined whether the individual in the situation needed more encouragement, direction, or both. This was a great way to show how everyone is different and as a leader, we need to be able to adapt to those around us.

Next, we met with a government panel for a round table discussion. We talked with the Stevens Point Mayor, Mike Wiza, a Portage County Executive, John Pavelski, the Village of Plover Administrator, Steve Kunst, and the Town of Lanark Chair, Mike Pagel. Each individual explained their role and what they think makes a good leader. It was very interesting hearing their different perspectives on leadership and what makes a good leader. They were all very straightforward and had a lot of good advice. They really touched on how conflict is everywhere, big or small, and not everyone is going

to be happy all of the time. The biggest take away I got from the discussion was having a mentor that can help guide you, you are always going to run into a little conflict, and to find something that you love to do so much, you are willing to come back every day and make sacrifices.

After the discussion, we had a great lunch catered from Erberts and Gerberts. Then, we brainstormed ideas for our group project at the end of the year. There were so many good ideas, but we decided to have a color run/food truck festival. We haven't fully determined where our proceeds are going yet, but we are off to a good start. For the final part of the day, we walked over to the Sheriff's department for a tour. We talked with a correction officer who told us all about her job and were given a tour by a deputy. I personally found this very interesting and was amazed at what these people do. We headed into the dispatch center where they actually took a 911 call! It was cool to see them in action. I could never handle the pressure they all have and the work they do. After the tour, we learned about tasers and Aleah was actually able to shoot one! Overall, it was a very cool experience and I admire all of the work they do for our community. It was a super fun day!



Welcome New Members - October 2023

EM-SPIRED

Custom embroidery shop preserving Hmong culture designs.

Email:Cyang281@uwsp.edu

THE PLAYHOUSE THEATRE

Nonprofit children's theatre group in Central Wisconsin. 2917 Post Road Stevens Point, WI

Email: tori@stevenspointre.com Website: Playhouse Theatre



THE OPERA HOUSE

The historic Opera House downtown Stevens Point opening soon as an event venue.

1124 Main Street Stevens Point, WI
715-323-1554

Email: shannon@stevenspointoperahouse.org Website: The Opera House



THE WOODEN CHAIR

This local favorite restaurant has new owners with plans to continue the tradition and flavors. 1059 Main Street Stevens Point, WI 715-341-1133

Email: thewoodenchair@gmail.com Website: The Wooden Chair



DOOR2DREAMS

Creating housing for adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (IDD) in Stevens Point, WI 715-252-7473

Email: <u>info@door2dreams.org</u> Website: <u>Door2Dreams</u>



HAPPY MEMBERVERSARY

Stevens Point Curling Club

Heritage Farm Estates

Sunset Point Winery

Exceling Your Business

Peoples State Bank

Midstate Independent Living Choices

Pixelle Specialty Solutions

Ki Mobility

Midstate Lock & Safe

Tri-County School District

Dale Carnegie Training of Central Wisconsin

Mada Custom Apparel

Lands' End

Elite Retirement Group

Community Foundation of Central Wisconsin

Hostel Shoppe





Portage County Business Council is committed and dedicated to the success of our students. Want to make an impact and get involved?

Schools are always reaching out for our programs. To get on the volunteer list,

Call Holly at 715.344.1940 or email at hollyf@portagecountybiz.com.

CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES

January 5, 24 - Mock Interviews with 8th Graders from Ben Franklin 12:30-2:00 PM @ PCBC

January 9, 24 - Reality Shop with Juniors & Seniors 7:15-11:30 AM @ SPASH

April 9, 2024 - Reality Shop with Tomorrow River High School TBA AM @ Jensen Center



The University of Wisconsin Stevens Point held an Inclusive Excellence Conference, Cultivating Connections and Creating Change.

Holly Fox, the Portage County Business Council's Director of Professional Development presented along with Eric Roesler, PhD, Director of Human Resources at UWSP presented on How to Diversify your Workforce.



A crowd of over 350 people gathered on Friday, October 27th for our 22nd Annual Wines of the World event held at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Convention Center! The event featured over 100 wines from around the world for sampling, along with some specialty cocktails and bourbons from The Bottle Stop, fine cuisine by the Holiday Inn Hotel & Convention Center and Rockman's Catering, Wisconsin artisan cheeses by Ski's Meat Market, delicious desserts, live music by the UWSP Alumni Quartet, a Silent Auction, Beer Bars by Stevens Point Brewery, District 1 Brewing Company & O'so Brewing Company, and handcrafted spirits by Great Northern Distilling

We would like to thank the following sponsors and contributors for their support of our Wines of the World event.

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Presenting Wine Sponsor



Food Sponsors



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Sommelier Master Level Media Sponsor



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O'so Brewing Company
Stevens Point Brewery

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Brewery Table Sponsor Stevens Point Brewery

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Members' Advantage Credit Union
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Guest Bag Sponsor Copperleaf Senior Living

Silent Auction/Door Prize Contributors Anderson O'Brien Associated Bank

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Rockman's Catering

Planning Team Sarah Agena -Portage County Dawn Brandt -**KPR Brokers** Sherri Galle-Teske -**Humane Society of Portage County** Karli Klismith -KerberRose Matt Lazarski -The Bottle Stop Tara Manzke -Bria Bella & Co. Karen Myers -Portage County Business Council Dorothy Pientka -Pientka Auction Service Scott Rockman -Rockman's Catering Michelle Sedlak -Holiday Inn Hotel & **Convention Center** Anastasia Sosnovske -Star Business Machines



Mark Your Calendars for our 2024 event to be held on Friday, October 25, 2024!



Tis the Season...

Be on the lookout for Jolly Biz the elf on our Facebook!

you just might win something...



Member to Member Deals



Purple Basil is an Italian inspired food truck offering catering services with and without the truck! We offer a variety of delicious, freshly made dishes for your corporate event. We are dedicated to creating a menu that will make your event unforgettable. From appetizers to entrées, whatever your needs may be, we can provide the perfect culinary experience!

Whether it be for employee appreciation, work lunch meetings, company picnics or just a group order for lunch, we can customize a menu for any occasion. PCBC members receive 10% off up to \$50 on our services, meal deliveries have a 10 meal minimum. PCBC Members will receive an extra month when you subscribe to the Social Media Master or Branding Boss Session before December 31st.

CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION

UPDATED



the ACTIVE VOICE

PARTICLE CHIEFY MISSESS COLUMN, NEWSLETTE

The Active Voice Digital Magazine Advertising Options Over 2,000 Portage County business people receive our digital magazine!

 ${
m Step 1}$ Contact the Business Council for a spot in our monthly digital magazine. Space is reserved on a first come, first-served basis. The adpprox will be placed throughout the issue, based on size.

Step 2. A emailed contract must be received by the 20° of the month prior to the launch of the digital magazine to reserve your space. Payment (Credit Card, Check, or Cash) must be received by the 24° of the month. The Active Voice is launched within the first full week of each month.

Step 3 Send one of the size options below in a PDF file (high resolution) format including the website you would like the ad to link to by the 24" of the month prior to the launch of the online newsletter to SheamusR@portage:countybiz.com.

Mail payment to 5501 Vern Holmes Drive, Stevens Point, WI 54482

For more information regarding newsletter advertising in The Active Voice, contact Sheamus Roelle at the Portage County Business Council 715-344-1940 | SheamusR@portagecountytiz.com.







Portage County Business Council presents...

Greece Island Hopper

October 1 – 11, 2024



Upgrade to Elite Airfare! see inside for details



For more information contact
Michael Witte
Portage County Business Council
(715) 344-1940
MichaelW@portagecountybiz.com